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I would like to speak in favor of SB 406, An Act Concerning Licensure of Radiologic Assistants. Currently, only Radiologic Technologists are licensed and qualified to administer ionizing radiation in the state of CT with a few exceptions such as physicians and chiropractors. I was an instructor in a radiography program at a hospital in Meriden so I know the extensive amount of classes that are required to become a registered technologist that relate to radiation exposure and radiation safety to both the patients and the workers. The Radiology Assistant (R.A.) programs that SB 406 addresses, offers courses comparable to those, so I have no reservations in allowing them to be licensed also. I do however have strong objections to allowing other health professionals such as Physicians' Assistants (P.A.) to have that same ability.

My main objection is patient safety. The P.A. curriculum offers only a fraction of what the Radiography and R.A. programs cover regarding this. Radiation can be a lethal weapon in the hands of unqualified personnel. In extremely high medical doses, initial radiation effects can be seen in the short-term in the form of skin burns. But the scariest thing about radiation exposure is the **long term effects** that are not seen until many years later in the form of Cancer or genetic effects. The National Cancer Institute estimates over 3,500 cancer deaths per year due to long-term effects of overexposure to radiation. The P.A.'s are especially interested in being allowed to perform fluoroscopic procedures. This type of radiologic procedure delivers a much higher dose to the patient than regular x-rays. With their limited knowledge of radiation safety, they should not be allowed to do this. Public safety needs to be our primary and sole concern.